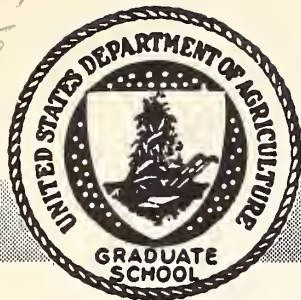


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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

Washington, D. C.

August 24, 1950

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
other associated with the Graduate School:

As another school year begins, may I remind you that GS committee
and faculty members can:

(1) enroll in GS courses at no charge except the registration fee
of \$3.00.

(2) order books for personal and professional use through the GS
bookstore at the publisher's price to us plus mailing charges.

(3) obtain life insurance through the Carnegie-endowed Teachers
Insurance Annuity Association, 522 Fifth Ave., New York 18, N. Y. Rates
are comparable with those of other insurance companies but dividends are
considerably higher. If interested write to the Association for litera-
ture mentioning your affiliation with the USDA Graduate School.

"Progress in the Field of Antibiotics,"

A course arranged for the fall semester by George W. Irving Jr., and
Thomas D. Fontaine (BAIC) will feature 16 distinguished speakers drawn
from the research staffs of colleges, Government, and the pharmaceutical
industry.

One of the best known of the speakers is Selman A. Waksman of Rut-
gers, whose lecture, "Horizons and Future Research in Antibiotics," will
close the series. In the discussions of the nature of the new antibio-
tics, special attention will be given to those that have already shown
great promise. Gladys L. Hobby of the Charles Pfizer and Company will re-
port on terramycin; Loren M. Long of Parke, Davis, and Company on chloro-
mycetin; and B. M. Duggar of the Lederle Laboratories on aureomycin.

Drs. Irving and Fontaine will lead the discussion on antibiotics
from higher plants. H. R. Bird (BAI) will conduct the seminar on anti-
biotics and nutrition, and John Matchett (BAIC) will present research
findings on antibiotics and food preservation. Other speakers will come
from National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Army
Medical Center, and George Washington University.

The course, as you will note in the class schedule is No. 700 in
the Department of Biological Sciences and the class meets each Monday from
7 to 9 p. m. Newsletter readers will recall that a similar course was
offered in 1946. These lectures have appeared in a book ANTIBIOTICS,
edited by Dr. Irving and the late Horace T. Herrick.

Lectures have been junked

in programs now used to train administrators in England and France. Robert Freeman, assistant director of State's Foreign Service Institute, recently returned from those countries, says discussions and participation by students have replaced lectures.

In England the training is given in the Administrative Staff College, a private set-up with full Government backing. The college charges small fees, offers a curriculum covering comparative administration, internal organization and management, external relations, and constructive administration. Each quarter during the year, 60 persons nominated by public and private agencies spend 12 weeks at the rural manor where the college is located. Assigned to small groups of 9 and 10, they work with a staff member, elect their own chairman and secretary, direct their own operations and discussions. Specialists come in not to give lectures but to answer questions. There are no examinations or reports, only evaluations.

In France government leaders are trained in the Civil Service Academy established under the DeGaulle regime in 1944. From 50 to 75 participants, drawn from college and technical school graduates and junior executive personnel, are selected by rigorous examination. They spend the first 10 months of training as internees on field assignments, the next year at the Academy in Paris where they study techniques and procedures and cultural problems. The first quarter of the third year they are assigned to work in private industry. During the following 6 months the student specializes in one of 4 major fields: general administration, economic and financial administration, social administration, or foreign affairs. The last 3 months are spent under a talented superior on government work at advanced levels. Participants receive a liberal allowance during training, agree to remain in government service for a long period, are eligible for assignment to next to the top federal positions.

Candidates for supervisory positions

in the Department of Corrections (DC) have been given a detailed and comprehensive training plan, according to Del Popolo, supervisor of academic education at the Lorton Reformatory. He tells me that employees participating in the plan may fill training requirements: (1) by attending lectures or forums covering either domestic or international affairs and preparing outline notes of each lecture; and (2) by completing two college courses in line with their major interests.

GS courses which Mr. Popolo believes will be appropriate for many of the trainees are: 108-Administrative Procedure; 413-Office Management; 344-Public Administration; 105-Human Relations; 210-Psychology; and 215-Sociology.

The faculty dinner meeting

will be held in mid-January according to present plan of the committee. I shall let you know the definite date as soon as possible so you may plan to attend. It was not possible to schedule the dinner in September. The USDA cafeteria will not be open evenings until September 25.

Training USDA administrators

in management by having them work together in a small group, do their own research on selected administrative problems, and make their own presentations and evaluations is the latest technique to be studied by the Secretary's committee on training in administrative management.

A homogeneous group of 12 men (GS-12's or higher, average age-32) from 11 agencies took part in an experimental course in July. Among management problems included in their study were: policy making, principles of organization, program planning and execution, staff relationships, work measurement, and public responsibility. Participants selected the topics beforehand. Each led one or more discussions.

Although the evaluations have not been completed, C. O. Henderson (Pers.), chairman of the committee, says the results are encouraging. It appears that discussions based on research by those taking part are just as effective as lectures by outside experts. A combination might be best. The lecture method was used in previous pilot studies (2 training courses in Washington, 1 in Philadelphia). An advantage to the workshop-discussion method of particular interest to USDA is that it can be used satisfactorily in field locations where management experts may not be available for lectures.

Every Extension worker

should have an opportunity to study in the Department, in the opinion of B. W. Reading, county agent, Sandusky, Ohio, who came to Washington on his sabbatical this past spring. To prepare for opportunities in extension work abroad, he enrolled in GS for a course in beginning German and Nelson Johnson's seminar in American foreign relations. For improvement in his present job he held conferences with many USDA people and selected two projects for special study: one a series of kodachrome slides illustrating research in progress at Beltsville; the other a paper dealing with declining tilth in the clay soils of Northwestern Ohio.

In his report to Director C. M. Ferguson of the Ohio Agricultural Extension Service, Mr. Reading said his richest experiences came from discussions with people who have worked in a special field for many years.

"Here I got information and points of view that make up the very essence and foundation of agricultural research. I found material in Washington that I didn't know existed. I am more than pleased with my opportunity to study at USDA. I have had an experience every Extension worker should have. I would like to repeat it."

4-H fellowships

are bringing Donald Eugene Foltz, assistant agent of Vigo county, Ind., and Joan Margaret Howell, 4-H Club agent, Clatsop county, Ore., to USDA for a year's study beginning in September.

August 24, 1950

ABOUT OURSELVES

John M. Brewster of the social sciences department took part in an inter-term seminar on economic efficiency in relation to agriculture at the University of Chicago this summer.

Ralph Shaw, chairman of the languages and literature department, has received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation that will enable him to place cameras and processing equipment in 10 representative libraries in the United States for a 2-year study of photography in the performance of clerical and office routines. The research will permit the further testing of techniques developed by Mr. Shaw in the USDA library.

We are losing A. J. Jaffe of the mathematics and statistics department to Columbia University where he will be an associate professor of statistics.

We recently filled a request by W. E. Deming of the mathematics and statistics department for material in this field to be sent to statistical organizations in Japan, where Ed is on a special assignment.

Arthur P. Chew, long-time GS instructor who came to USDA with Secretary Henry C. Wallace in 1923 and who wrote the Secretary's annual reports and many other publications on agriculture, retired June 30.

Another GS friend and rooter recently retired is Florence C. Bell, agricultural economist with the Farm Credit Administration.

Harold Eisele, assistant director, recently reported on the GS study showing how students learn of GS courses before the Training Committee of the Federal Personnel Council.

The 1950-51 catalog is off the press and in our office. You will be getting your copy soon.

A publications revolving fund

authorized by the GS Board, July 26, will be used to finance appropriate publications and to receive income from them. The Board approved the transfer of \$10,000 to the fund and, asked the Committee on Publications to serve as an advisory group in policy matters concerning the fund. P. H. DeVries (PMA) is chairman of the committee. Members are Harry Mileham (Ext.), R. T. Hall (FS), J. K. McClarren (BAI), and Jim McCormick (INF.) First item selected for publication under the revolving fund is a revision of GS's famed "Lectures and Conferences on Mathematical Statistics" by Jerzy Neyman. The material was originally compiled for a GS course in the '30's.

Sincerely,

Lewis H. Zibbough

Director

